(d) if so, the number of irregularities found so far;

(e) whether his Ministry is thinking of expanding the Antyodaya Scheme to more BPL families; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (d) A list of suitable Officers has been drawn up in the Department of Food and Public Distribution so that, when situations arise necessitating investigation into the adequacy (or otherwise) of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in any area, alleged "starvation" and other matters concerning the supply and distribution of foodgrains, a team of such Officers can quickly be deputed to these areas to assess the situation. Each Team of Officers is called a Task Force.

The Task Force was set up in August, 2002. First Task Force Team visited Orissa in early September, 2002.

The deficiencies observed in the functioning of PDS, concerning issues like identification of beneficiaries, issuance of ration cards, opening of Fair Price Shops, giving adequate information to the consumers, etc., are brought to the notice of respective State Governments for taking remedial action.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. This is in line with the Prime Minister's initiative relating to 'Alleviation of hunger amongst the most vulnerable sections of the society such as old people, widows and disabled persons without family or societal support', announced on the Independence Day, 2002.

BPL Families

1689. SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the States have since identified the families living Below Poverty Line:

(b) if so, the number thereof, State-wise;

(c) if not, by when the States would complete this exercise; and

(d) the manner in which the BPL families would get the benefits that is due to them, where the identification of the BPL families has not yet been done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. All States have identified the families living below the poverty line under the Targeted Public Distribution System. Details regarding the number of families living below the poverty line identified by State Governments are as per the annexed Statement.

Statement

Number of BPL families identified by State Governments

(Fig. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of BPL Household projected as on 1.3.2000	No. of BPL Household identified by the State Govt.
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	40.63	113.60
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.99	1.20
3.	Assam	18.36	18.85
4.	Bihar	65.23	61.63
5.	Goa	0.48	0.08
6.	Gujarat	21.20	33.90
7.	Haryana	7.89	7.68
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5.14	2.98
9.	J & K	7.36	6.23
10.	Karnataka	31.29	62.80
11.	Kerala	15.54	20.58
12.	Madhya Pradesh	41.25	44.87
13.	Maharashtra	65.34	77.00
14.	Manipur	1.66	1.29
15.	Meghalaya	1.83	1.72
16.	Mizoram	0.68	0.91
17.	Nagaland	1.24	1.24
18.	Orissa	32.98	48.57
19.	Punjab	4.68	4.35
20.	Rajasthan	24.31	23.74

1	2	3	4
21.	Sikkim	0.43	0.44
22.	Tamil Nadu	48.63	65.51
23.	Tripura	2.95	2.50
24.	Uttar Pradesh	106.79	105.75
25.	West Bengal	51.79	47.87
26.	A & N Islands	0.28	0.17
27.	Chandigarh	0.23	0.23
28.	D & N Haveli	0.18	0.16
29.	Daman & Diu	0.04	0.04
30.	Delhi	4.09	4.11
31.	Lakshadweep	0.03	0.012
32.	Pondicherry	0.84	0.95
33.	Chhattisgarh	18.75	17.48
34.	Jharkhand	23.94	22.21
35.	Uttaranchal	4.98	4.30
	TOTAL	652.04	804.85

Allocation of foodgrains under PDS

1690. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the basis for allocation of foodgrains to the States under PDS;

(b) whether there have been instances during the last two years, when a State has been allocated more foodgrains than its quota;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether such additional allocations affected the routine allocation to the other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U. V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) Foodgrains at the rate of 35 kg. per family per month are being